

## GONE HOME

Polk Laffoon, Lawyer, Ex-Congressman and Ex-Confederate Soldier

### DIES SUDDENLY MONDAY MORNING.

Col. Polk Laffoon, one of the best known men in this part of the state, was summoned to his long home Monday morning about five o'clock. Mr. Laffoon had been in ill health for some time past but his condition was not thought to be serious and his family and friends were not alarmed about him. He went to bed Sunday evening without complaining and early Monday morning called to his servant to feed the chickens. The servant left Mr. Laffoon sitting on the side of the bed apparently in as good health as usual. When he returned, however, Mr. Laffoon was lying across the bed and when the negro spoke to him he did not answer. This alarmed the man and he at once tried to arouse his master but without success. The household was at once aroused and assistance sent for but it was too late, the old soldier was dead.

Mr. Laffoon had been a resident of Hopkins county all his life. He was born here on Oct. 24, 1844, and was consequently 62 years old. When a young man he joined the Confederate army and was made Lieutenant of Co. I, 10th Ky. Infantry, under Col. Adam Johnson, who commanded one of Morgan's brigades. He served through the war and was discharged at the close with an unsullied reputation and an enviable record.

After the war closed he began the practice of law and continued in the same until his death. In 1872 he was elected county attorney of Hopkins county without opposition. In 1884 he won the fight of his life when he defeated the Hon. James F. Clay for congress.

During this primary Mr. Laffoon made one of the most thorough canvasses ever made in the Second district. His work in congress was remarkable. He introduced and had passed many measures that now remain on the statute books.

He was a power on the stump and took part in many campaigns in this sections of the state. He was unflinching democrat and was at the command of his party at all times.

In 1872 he was married to Miss Hattie Parker and to their union four children were born, three of whom survive. They are Mrs. Lena Crenshaw, of this city, Mrs. Watt Nisbet, of Madisonville, and Polk Laffoon, Jr., of Frankfort.

Mrs. Laffoon died about fifteen years ago and since that time he has made his home with his children.

The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence of Watt Nisbet, and the burial was at Odd Fellows' Cemetery. He was buried under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge and his ex-Confederate comrades.

### Well Known Citizen Dead.

David Vincent, aged 59 years, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Wm. Deberry, Thursday of last week after a lingering illness of typhoid fever. Six children survive, among whom are the daughter mentioned and Mrs. Claud Borders, of this city. Interment took place at Earllington cemetery Friday by the side of his wife who preceded him to the grave a few months over a year ago.

## COURT HOLDS THAT PRIMARY IS LEGAL.

Judge Calloway Decides That Nomination of Senator Can be Made at Polls.

Bowling Green, Ky., Oct. 20.—The case of R. E. Jones, who sought to enjoin the holding of primaries for Senator and to force voters to disclose how they vote for Congressman, was heard by Judge Calloway today.

After the termination of the arguments Judge Calloway ruled that the claim of the plaintiff in regard to the requirement of the committee, that the voters disclose the way they voted for Congressman, was unconstitutional and a violation of the law.

He said this cause for action was removed by the repeal of said rule by the Democratic Committee and by the promise of defendant to give the repeal due publicity. The court held the contention regarding the selection of primary officers was not well taken.

He also overruled the motion made on the grounds that the selection of United States Senator by the people was illegal. Petition overruled and dismissed by the court.

## DOCTOR IS KILLED BY CITY MARSHAL.

Kuttawa Man Resists Arrest and is Shot to Death by Officer.

Paducah, Ky., Oct. 20.—As a result of an alleged attempt to resist arrest yesterday, Dr. A. D. Purdy, of Kuttawa, one of the best-known practitioners in this section, is dead. He was shot by Town Marshal W. H. McCollum, of Kuttawa, who was trying to arrest him at the time for an assault on D. B. Green, Judge of the Police Court.

Green had fined Dr. Purdy, and the latter swore revenge. They met for the first time Friday afternoon, and Dr. Purdy struck Judge Green's nose.

The latter swore out a warrant, and Marshal McCollum undertook to serve it in front of the hotel. Dr. Purdy is alleged to have made a threatening gesture, when the Marshal fired. Dr. Purdy lingered until this evening. He was fifty-three years old and had a family.

## Program, District Convention of C. W. B. M.

The following is the program of the District Convention of the C. W. B. M., which meets at the Christian Church, Madisonville, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock: Song—"I gave my life for thee."

Song—"Work for the night is coming."

Prayer—Rev. Fowler.

Bible Lesson—Rev. Brazelton.

Words of Welcome and roll call of auxiliaries—Mrs. Stevens.

Song—"Bringing in the sheaves."

Select Reading—Mrs. Brown.

Duet—Mesdames Rash and McGary.

Report from the National Convention.

The Centennial Fund—Mrs. Seargeant.

Plea for C. W. B. M. workers—Mrs. Yancy.

Social half hour.

Business period.

Benediction.

## Better Telephone Service.

Madisonville is agitating the question of better telephone service for the city and Jerrold Jonson and W. P. Vickers have been appointed by the city council as an investigation committee. These gentlemen have been at work on this matter for sometime and will make their report to the board in December.

## PUBLIC OWNERSHIP GLASGOW RAILROAD

Kentucky Town Built Line, Ran it Thirty Years and Lost \$250,000.

### THEN GAVE IT AWAY TO GET RID OF A COSTLY BURDEN.

Glasgow, Ky., Oct. 20.—If William Randolph Hearst or W. J. Bryan with their ideas of public ownership could only see the absolute failure of the experiment entered upon by this town and county, which bought a railroad and after a 30 year trial actually gave the property away to keep from operating it, they might conclude that the way of public ownership was not the practical success that the theorists have planned.

This city once paid more than \$250,000 for a railroad line, operated it for many years, and then by a vote of 950 against 82 authorized the sale of the road to any one who would take it off the city's hands and would pay the small remaining debt.

In the early sixties, when the Louisville and Nashville railroad was built southward and passed within ten miles of the town, the citizens determined to construct a branch road, connecting Glasgow with the main line. The town and precinct voted almost unanimously to issue bonds for the payment of the cost of construction. The interest on these bonds were to be paid by a yearly tax on all property, but the bonds themselves were to be paid by the profits of the railroad.

### It Looked Good.

It looked good and when the first train steamed into Glasgow there was great rejoicing.

Then the yearly grind of taxes began. Year after year the taxes continued. Strangers coming into the town to locate inquired of the tax rates. When they found these rates to be so high they "backed out," and the railroad tax hung as a millstone around the neck of the town's prosperity.

The profits of the operation of the railroad were thousands of dollars less than expected, and some years there were deficits even. It was expected that within a few years the profits would pay these and the road would be free of debt.

But for thirty years these taxes continued, until more than \$250,000 had been paid, and still the debt amounted to more than half the original amount. The citizens saw that the tax load was preventing the development of the town, and was draining them of thousands of dollars every year.

The directors of the road were elective and representative citizens were always chosen to the office. These directors served without pay, but the positions carried with them, annual passes on the Louisville and Nashville railroad, and the fight at the polls degenerated into a squabble for railroad passes, without regard to the care of the public railroad.

But the citizens finally tired of the everlasting railroad taxes and the annual fight for the passes, and they determined to sell the road. Just how sick they were of public ownership is shown by the vote cast in favor of the sale, when it came to a test. There were 1,082 votes cast at the election, and of these 950 were to sell the road.

When the railroad was finally sold and the proceeds divided

among the citizens in proportion to the amount of railroad taxes paid by them, it was found that just 8 per cent of the money paid out by them was refunded. The other 92 per cent had been lost in the deal, and Glasgow does not want any more public ownership of anything.

After the railroad passed into the hands of private parties the roadbed was improved, rolling stock repaired, train service more frequent, freight and passenger rates equalized without being increased, and the railroad is paying its present owners first-class returns on the investment.

And the town, free from the heavy drain of its publicly-owned railroad, has taken on new life.

### THE LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Judge Evans Holds Federal Statute as to Discrimination Against Unions Void.

Louisville, Ky., Oct. 23.—In the United States District Court today Judge Walter Evans, in the case of the United States vs. J. M. Scott, a train dispatcher of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, on trial for alleged violation of the Erdman act, which seeks to prevent interstate carriers from keeping their employees out of labor unions, held that Section 10 of the act is void, because it is not a regulation of commerce within the meaning of the commerce clause of the Constitution, and, therefore, beyond the power of Congress to enact. The court sustained the demurrer to the indictment against Scott, and discharged him from custody. The suit was brought in the lower court on instructions from the Attorney General of the United States and an appeal taken. Scott had discharged an operator in the employ of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, and the Railroad Telegraphers Union took the matter to the courts.

### Piano Men Injured.

Ollie Pruitt and W. H. Hopkins, two young men representing Harling & Miller's piano house of Evansville, were seriously injured Friday afternoon in a runaway accident at Mortons Gap. They were driving on the dirt road which is near the railroad track when a freight coming in behind them frightened the horse which ran for several hundred yards.

Mr. Hopkins, who was driving, lost control of the running horse which ran into the fence on the side of road tearing the buggy into splinters.

Mr. Pruitt and Mr. Hopkins were thrown out and both received painful injuries. Pruitt had his left ankle broken and Hopkins was badly scratched on his face, neck and hands.

Medical attention was given them at Mortons Gap and they were taken to Madisonville Friday evening on the interurban. Mr. Pruitt was able to go to his home in Evansville Friday night. Mr. Hopkins remained in Madisonville a few days.

### Married.

Jas. Rich, of Madisonville, and Miss Clara Johnson, of White Plains, surprised their friends by eloping to Illinois last week and marrying. The groom drove from Madisonville to Nortonville to meet his bride. They boarded a train there and returned to the bride's home Saturday. The groom is a son of Mrs. H. R. Rich, Sr., and an industrious young man. The bride is an estimable young lady and has numerous friends in the section where she lived.

## CONGRESSMAN

J. E. RANSELL

Of Louisiana, Wants More Money for Waterways.

### MEANS MUCH FOR OLD KENTUCKY.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Through the work of Congressman Joseph E. Ransdell of Louisiana, and other Western Representatives, the question of greater appropriations for waterways improvement is creating much enthusiasm in the Middle West. This enthusiasm will mean much for Kentucky and Tennessee, and in fact for the entire South, for with the development of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers the commerce of all states that lie near those streams will be given a marvellous impetus. The announcement was made in the capital this week that Kansas City business men have perfected plans for a line of packets to run between that city and St. Louis, one vessel already having been received and two others being on the way. It is believed here that the Kansas City fleet is merely the forerunner of great river squadrons that will soon ply the waters of the big streams. Congressman Ransdell is pointing out that freight can be carried by water at one-sixth the cost by rail. He is urging the audiences he and his colleagues are addressing, to exert their influence toward having Congress increase the present annual appropriation of less than \$19,000,000 for waterway improvements to \$50,000,000. There is reason to believe, according to students of affairs here, that Congress cannot long withstand a combined pressure for this great national work, if it is exerted steadily and persistently from the Middle West and South.

Another evidence of China's gradual emancipation from the chains of ancient custom and superstition that have bound her so long, is found in the fact that Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, the Chinese Minister, will retain his post in spite of the fact that his mother is dead. Chinese custom dictates that the period of mourning must be three years, but an imperial decree has just been received which permits Sir Liang-Cheng to curtail the term to 100 days. For that period the Minister will not be seen socially or diplomatically, and his work will be carried on by subordinates. Hitherto Chinese officials to this country who suffered losses of parents while in office, were compelled to resign and return home.

Munity in the navy! Munity too, against the orders of the President, who is Commander-in-Chief! This is the state of affairs that is amusing all Washington. Evidence of direct disobedience of orders was found this week when the "Proceedings of the Naval Institute," a quarterly published by officers in the United States Navy, came from the Government Printing Office. Through page and page investigators went, breathlessly, and everywhere were evidences that the "Ruzvelt sistem" of spelling had been systematically ignored. Orders were issued to the Printing Office some time ago by President Roosevelt to make certain changes in a list of 500 words. The naval men balked at the reforms and in balking defied the Commander-in-Chief. Whether the mutineers are to swing at the end of a yard-arm, be reprimanded or be treated with cool silence, is unknown. The White House is holding its peace.

## COURT OF APPEALS AFFIRMS DEATH SENTENCE

Guy Lyons, Convicted of Heinous Crime, Must Hang.

The Court of Appeals at Frankfort, affirmed the judgment of the Logan Circuit Court last week, sentencing Guy Lyons, convicted of criminal assault upon Mary Gladder, to be hanged for his crime. Judge Nunn delivered the opinion of the court. Upon the overruling of petitions for rehearing in this case and that of W. R. Fletcher, another of the condemned men, the mandates of the court will go from the clerk's office to the Executive Department and the Governor will fix a day for the execution of both prisoners.

The death sentence of Jno. Sacra, for the same offense, was reversed and remanded to the lower court for a new trial. Jim Lyons, another party indicted for the same crime, was given twenty years in the penitentiary.

### A Storm That Did Good.

The storm that struck the Methodist parsonage in Earlington Monday night was very sudden and of great volume. It was followed by a regular flood, that is, a "flood" of good and useful things for housekeeping, such as: flour, meal, ham, sugar, coffee, potatoes, apples, beans, various kinds of cereals, preserves, and canned goods too numerous to mention.

A shower of the same kind continued unto the next day and closed the day by dropping a load of coal into the preacher's coal house. All of which show the excellent judgment of the good ladies who look after the parsonage and the comfort of the preacher's family.

Rev. J. D. Fraser and family desire thus publicly to thank one and all who took part in this donation and to assure the good people of Earlington that they heartily appreciate these tokens of good will and this cordial welcome into their midst.

### Christian Church.

Howard J. Brazelton returned home Monday afternoon after an absence of one month. During his absence he attended the National Convention of the Christian Church at Buffalo and visited Niagara Falls. Six thousand people attended the convention. On next Sunday morning Mr. Brazelton's subject will be "The Gathering of The Hosts" in which he will tell of the convention. At the night service he will draw lessons from the Falls, using as a topic "The Rushing of Mighty Waters."

Evening service at 7 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to every one.

### New National Bank.

Morton's Bank, one of the oldest banking institutions in Southwestern Kentucky, has just recently applied for a charter to become a national bank, and this week the charter was received which now places this splendid concern under Uncle Sam's supervision.

This makes the first national bank in Hopkins county.

### Hopkins County Medical Society Meeting.

On account of the meeting of the Southwestern Medical Association at Dawson Springs on Oct. 30th the Hopkins County Medical Society will hold its regular meeting then. All physicians in this county or as many as possible are requested to be present. W. K. NISBET, M. D. Pres. Hopkins Co., Med. Soc'y.